Exploitation of Girls

†227. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of girls of poor families are lured and being sold in the gulf countries;

(b) the details thereof and the States where such incidents are on the rise; and

(c) the details of measures Government have taken to check such immoral sex exploitations of under-age poor and innocent girls and the extent of success Government have achieved in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) to (c) There have been reports about a few cases where young girls were brought from India on Visit/Employment Visa by unscrupulous agents and the touts at UAE forced them to indulge in immoral activities.

Our mission in UAE have been informing the local police authorities about such cases and requesting them to take appropriate action. The Ministry of External Affairs has also advised Ministry of Labour to take precautionary measures, like:

(i) Issuing instructions to the State Governments to create an awareness among job seekers through print/visual media about the potential dangers if they take any job without proper verification. The agents involved in arranging Visas may also be identified and appropriate action be taken to curtail such undesirable activities.

(ii) The women coming on Employment Visa without Emigration Check not Required (ECNR stamp) in their passport should not be allowed emigration clearance unless they produce attested copies of relevant documents from the Consulate/ Embassy and those coming on Visit Visa should produce a sponsorship declaration signed by the sponsor and attested by the concerned Indian Mission.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

A recent incident of a case of marriage of a minor girl aged 16 years to a Yemeni national in the State of Maharashtra has also come to notice. With a view to prevent incidents of such marriages with under-age girls and to protect young girls from exploitation by foreign nationals Ministry of External Affairs has requested Indian Missions/Posts in the Gulf region to take special care to screen visa applicants and make foreign nationals visiting India aware of illegality of marriage with under-age girls.

Resettlement of People in Refugee Camps in Jammu

†228. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether thousands of people have been taking shelter in the refugee camps in Jammu for the sake of their security in spite of having their own houses;

(b) the number of such persons and since when they are living in these camps; and

(c) the details of scheme formulated by Government to resettle these homeless people in their own houses with full security?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) As per available information, 5830 families (22139 persons) are staying in Government managed camps since 1990 and thereafter.

(c) For their rehabilitation, State Government of J & K prepared an Action Plan involving a total expenditure of Rs. 2589.73 crores which was approved by the Central Government in May 2001. 166 houses forming 15 clusters in Srinagar and Budgam districts which are considered safe for the return of the owners of these houses were identified. The list of these clusters was published in the newspapers and steps were taken to identify the families and ascertain their willingness to return to their homes. Government of India have approved and provided a grant of Rs. 10.00 crores to the State Government for the reconstruction and renovation of houses and shrines at Kheer Bhavani and Mattan and Rs. 20.00 crores for the construction of 200 two-bed room flats at Budgam, on an experimental basis, for the rehabilitation of Kashmiri Migrants.

As announced by the Prime Minister during his visit to J & K in November 2004, an inter-ministerial team was constituted to prepare a plan to rehabilitate Kashmiri Migrants and the team's report has been

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.